

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, ELAB, PN
SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - MEDIA COVERAGE

SUMMARY: TREATY-RELATED COVERAGE WAS WIDESPREAD
FRIDAY MORNING. IT HIGHLIGHTED A REPORT THAT A U.S.
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE
TODAY, AS WELL AS A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER
INDIRECTLY ANSWERING THE INDEPENDENT LAWYERS'
MOVEMENT. HOWEVER, THERE IS STILL NO DEFINABLE "LINE",
BEYOND AN AIR OF SOMETHING MAJOR COMING WITHOUT ITS
NATURE BEING KNOWN. END SUMMARY.

1. TREATY-RELATED STORIES WERE NUMEROUS IN LOCAL
PRESS FOR FRIDAY MORNING JULY 22. (NOTHING ON PRESIDENT'S
YAZOO CITY REMARKS, WHICH DID NOT MAKE LOCAL DEADLINES).
ALL PAPERS FEATURED ANNOUNCEMENT OF A REPORT BY AMBASSADOR
LEWIS FROM WASHINGTON THAT THE U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY
COUNCIL WAS TO MEET TODAY ON THE CANAL ISSUE, AND THAT
PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS ESCOBAR AND ROYO ARE TO MEET
WITH SECRETARY VANCE ON MONDAY.

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2. ALL PAPERS ALSO FEATURED A COMMUNIQUE FROM FOREIGN
MINISTER GONZALEZ-REVILLA ISSUED LATE JULY 21. THIS
WAS AN INDIRECT RESPONSE TO THE CONTINUING
DRUMFIRE OF CALLS FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF NEUTRALITY
AND "INTERVENTION" BY THE INDEPENDENT LAWYERS'
MOVEMENT (PANAMA 5052 AND 5210). WITHOUT
REFERRING DIRECTLY TO THOSE LETTERS, GONZALEZ-

REVILLA SAID THE NEW TREATY WOULD BE "A DYNAMIC DOCUMENT" INVOLVING A PROCESS OF "DECOLONIZATION" WHICH ITS TERMINATION WOULD COMPLETE. THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE "NEARING COMPLETION", ALBEIT WITH A POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING "ONLY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A COMPLETE TREATY...WHICH...WILL MARK A SURE PATH FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION". AT THE PROPER TIME, THE GOP "WILL LITERALLY SATURATE THE PUBLIC WITH INFORMATION TO ALLOW THEM TO FORM AN OPINION ON THE PLEBISCITE WHICH WILL...APPROVE OR REJECT THE NEGOTIATED TREATY." (FBIS/PANAMA PA 220101Y).

3. OTHER TREATY-RELATED STORIES THIS MORNING INCLUDED: AP REPORTS FROM SANTIAGO IN "ESTRELLA" AND "STAR AND HERALD" ON CHILE'S REAFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT FOR PANAMA ON CANAL ISSUE (SEE FBIS/PANAMA PA 212127Y FOR AFP VERSION); TRANSLATIONS OF THIS WEEK'S "TIME" MAGAZINE ITEM ON NEGOTIATIONS IN "ESTRELLA" (FRONT PAGE) AND "MATUTINO" (EDITORIAL/ OPINION PAGE); REHASH IN ENGLISH OF RECENT STORIES ON CONTRERAS/FABREGA/GONZALEZ INTERVIEW (PANAMA 5210) AND INDEPENDENT LAWYERS' LETTERS IN "STAR AND HERALD"; UPI (WALTE) STORY FROM WASHINGTON THAT "STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES" HAD INDICATED THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE A TREATY TO MEET PRESIDENT CARTER'S REPORTED OBJECTIVE OF THE END OF SEPTEMBER, ON "CRITICA" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BACK PAGE.

4. "CRITICA" ALSO REPORTED A NEW "ZONIAN INSULT" IN THAT PANAMANIAN-CITIZEN UNION LEADERS ANDERSON AND MAUGE HAD BEEN REFUSED ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE WITH PAY TO PARTICIPATE IN TREATY NEGOTIATIONS ON PANAMANIAN SIDE, WHILE US-CITIZEN GRAHAM HAD BEEN GRANTED LEAVE WITH PAY TO ADVISE US NEGOTIATORS. SAME PAPER IN "PISANDO CALLOS" COLUMN CARRIED A LETTER OF PERSONAL OPINION FROM PABLO KIRVEN, VICE-PRESIDENT OF LOCAL 900 AFSCME, CALLING FOR A BINATIONAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN CANAL OPERATION AND ENSURE THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW TREATY WAS NOT ACCOMPANIED AS IN 1956, BY LARGE-SCALE RIF'S OF PANAMANIAN EMPLOYEES.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE THIS GUSHER OF TREATY-RELATED ITEMS OF NEWS, THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT AND LITTLE MEANINGFUL SAID BY REGULAR COLUMNISTS WHO CUSTOMARILY REFLECT THE GOP-INSPIRED LINE". THE SENSE THAT ONE ACQUIRES FROM THIS PATTERN OF COVERAGE IS THAT SIGNIFICANT THINGS

ARE HAPPENING AND THAT SOMETHING MAJOR IS COMING,
BUT WITHOUT ANY DEFINITIVE IDEA OF WHAT
THA NATURE OF THAT SOMETHING MAY BE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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TAGS: PBOR, PINT, ELAB, PN
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